

employment commences in the tribal organization unless exercised or otherwise terminated before that time as provided in this subpart.

**§ 352.705 Return to Federal employment.**

(a) *Conditions.* Reemployment rights may be exercised only under the following conditions. The individual must apply in writing to the former employing agency for reemployment not later than 30 calendar days after:

(1) Receipt of notice of involuntary separation from tribal employment. For this purpose, involuntary separation means any separation against the will and without consent of the individual.

(2) Reversion of the function to Federal operation, whether reversion is through tribal or Federal action; or

(3) Separation with the joint consent of the tribal organization and the Federal agency for reasons of personal hardship or other special circumstances.

(b) *Termination.* A former employee's entitlement to reemployment terminates for:

(1) Failure to apply for reemployment within the time limit stated in paragraph (a) of this section;

(2) Resignation from tribal service without the joint consent, described in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, of the tribal organization and the Federal employer; or

(3) Failure to accept, within 10 calendar days of receipt thereof, an offer of reemployment made under § 352.706 which is determined by the employing agency or by the Merit Systems Protection Board on appeal to be a proper offer of reemployment.

**§ 352.706 Agency response to reemployment application.**

(a) *Employee's right to reemployment.* An employee is entitled to be reemployed by the reemploying agency as promptly as possible, and, in any event, within 45 calendar days after agency receipt of application.

(1) Within the competitive area the employee is entitled to reemployment in:

(i) The position held immediately before leaving the agency;

(ii) One in the same competitive level; or

(iii) Another position for which qualified and eligible at the same grade or level and in the same competitive area as the position the employee last held in the agency. The employing agency determines the position under paragraph (a)(1) (i), (ii), or (iii) of this section to which the employee is entitled. Reduction-in-force procedures shall be applied where necessary in determining the position to which the employee has a right. In applying the reduction-in-force regulations, the applicant shall be considered an employee of the agency.

(2) *Extending the area.* Responsibility for reemploying an applicant is nationwide within the agency. If the applicant is not placed under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the agency must extend reemployment rights, based on the employee's availability, for assignment outside the competitive area. The employee is entitled to a position, for which qualified and eligible, at the same grade or level as the position last held in the agency. Where necessary, reduction-in-force procedures shall be applied in determining the position to which the employee has a right. The applicant shall be considered an employee for the purpose of applying the reduction-in-force regulations.

(b) *Employee option.* Before the competitive area is extended under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, an employee who cannot be placed under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, in the competitive area at the same grade or level as the position last held is entitled, if the employee elects, to reemployment in a position at a lower grade or level identified under the same conditions and procedures as paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(c) *Agency option.* At any stage in the process, the agency has the option to satisfy the employee's right to reemployment by offering a vacant position which, under reduction-in-force regulations, is in accord with the employee's rights. Also, with the employee's consent, right to reemployment can be met by placement in a vacant position, for which the employee is qualified according to agency determination, and available, outside the organizational or